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Witwatersrand, Council of  
Education.



(COUNCIL OF EDUCATION,  
(WITWATERSRAND.)

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HISTORY of COUNCIL,  
1895—1916.



Johannesburg :  
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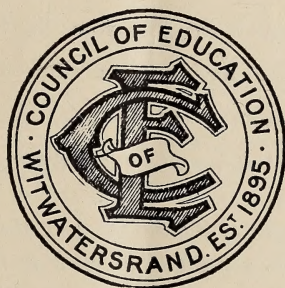






# COUNCIL OF EDUCATION, WITWATERSRAND.

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## HISTORY of COUNCIL, 1895—1916.

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Johannesburg :  
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“ The year under review is the 20th since the formation of the Council, the twenty-first anniversary having been reached in April, 1916. We therefore considered it desirable to publish, by way of celebrating that anniversary, a history of the Council's activities since its foundation.”—

*(Extract from report of Syndic for year ended 30th September, 1915.  
Presented to Council 21st July, 1916.)*

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OFFICES :

AFRICAN BANKING CORPORATION CHAMBERS,  
JOHANNESBURG.



# History of the Council of Education, Witwatersrand.

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April 2nd, 1916, was the twenty-first anniversary of the foundation of the Council of Education, Witwatersrand. The Executive has thought that this is a fitting occasion to publish a short history of the Council, showing how it came to exist, and giving a sketch of its various operations which have had a far-reaching influence in connection with almost every kind of educational activity on the Witwatersrand.

The Council owes its inception to the unsatisfactory conditions that prevailed on the Witwatersrand in respect to the education of English-speaking children in the early nineties. In order to convey more clearly what these conditions were and how they arose, it is necessary to give a brief account of the earlier educational legislation in the South African Republic.

## EARLY EDUCATIONAL LEGISLATION IN THE TRANSVAAL.

The first published Education Law of the South African Republic was Law No. 4, of 1874. In terms of this Law three classes of schools were recognised—(1) Ward Schools, (2) District Schools, and (3) Gymnasium (at Pretoria). In practice the Ward School was described as a "Farm" School, and the District School as a "Town" School. The Gymnasium was not realised till 1893. In terms of this Law, instruction was undenominational. The medium was Dutch or English at the will of the parents. Thus, when the first School Inspector (Mr. Van Gorkum) arrived in the Transvaal, in 1876, there were eight Farm Schools. There were four schools in which the medium was wholly English, viz., Pretoria, Heidelberg, Lydenburg and Zeerust, with a total of seventy-one pupils. In three schools—Pretoria, Potchefstroom and Lydenburg, with fifty pupils, the medium was Dutch. One school, with twenty-nine pupils, had both Dutch and English as the medium.

The next educational legislation of significance was Law No. 1, of 1882. The distinctions between town and country schools ceased; Lower Education (Standards I.—III.) and Middle Education (Standards IV.—VI.) were recognised, and annual subsidies of £3 and £5 per pupil were paid on account of the respective groups. This law laid it down that schools were to be opened and closed by prayer, but that



doctrinal instruction was to be left to the Churches. The medium of instruction was to be Dutch. The medium clause was not rigidly enforced and English schools, as a rule, had no difficulty in earning their subsidy. A reference to the number of pupils undergoing instruction furnishes evidence as to the liberal spirit of the Administration. Thus, in 1883, the year after the publication of the Law, numbers had nearly doubled, and in 1892 they had increased tenfold.

From 1892 onwards a marked change of attitude towards education on the part of the Transvaal legislators is observable. Discussions in the Volksraad during the few years immediately prior to this betrayed much uneasiness as to the possible effect of the existing system of education upon the spirit of nationality. Thus, when the propriety of paying bursaries to students in Europe was under debate, a member urged that the boy would return as a stranger to the land. Another member put an end to the argument by pointing out that Moses was educated at a foreign court, and on his return he was not only a patriot, but became the leader of his people. In reply to a member, arguing against the English language, it was shown that many who had been educated at the Cape had fought in the War of Independence, and were, therefore, nothing the worse for knowing the language.

Mr. Mansvelt, a teacher from the Victoria College in Stellenbosch, had been appointed Superintendent of Schools in 1891. In the following year Law No. 8, of 1892, appeared. The more important provisions of this Law were as follows:—

1. All teachers must be members of a Protestant Church.
2. All lesson books must be written in Dutch. Not more than three hours per week, in Standards I.—III., and four hours in Standards IV.—VI. may be devoted to instruction in a foreign language.

Under (2) all English-speaking children, including many from the Cape, were excluded, and Roman Catholics and Jews were subject to a further disability under (1).

The arguments addressed by Mr. Mansvelt to recalcitrant Boers in support of the new legislation, are significant. "The use of English," he says, "is fraught with serious consequence to our national existence" and he inveighs bitterly against the parents who have sent their children to English schools "where they can get fuller scope to their short-sighted desires." As a result of two years' working of this Law attendance at schools fell off 27.7 per cent. throughout the Republic and about 40 per cent., taking the town schools alone.

It was estimated that the bringing into effect of Law No. 8, of 1892, resulted in turning some 2,261 children out of the schools of the Transvaal. The Witwatersrand, being largely an English-speaking centre, was the most seriously affected. The exodus of children from schools brought about an agitation amongst those on the goldfields interested in education, and the result was a Volksraad Resolution purporting to meet the case of private schools by a subsidy. The subsidy was to be paid on account of English-speaking children who learnt Dutch, but the payment was so hedged round with conditions as to render it almost impossible for schools to earn it. At no period were there more than 200 children earning the subsidy under this resolution.



## COUNCIL OF EDUCATION, WITWATERSRAND.

Efforts were made by the Transvaal National Union and other bodies to induce the Government to make some special provision for the education of English-speaking children, but without result. The obduracy of the Government set men's minds working in order to find a way out. Various plans were proposed, but the credit of suggesting a scheme calculated to deal with the problem in a practical manner is due to the late Mr. H. S. Caldecott. At a meeting, held in Johannesburg, on April 2nd, 1895, Mr. Caldecott addressed the assemblage on the subject of "Our Boys and Girls." After showing what had been done in the two South African Colonies and the Republic of the Free State, Mr. Caldecott pointed out what was *not* being done in the Transvaal, and especially in Johannesburg, and he went on to say:—"I think an Educational Council should be elected by the people, who should draw up a charter and appoint trustees and collect funds, and establish and endow the schools I have indicated, on broad and liberal principles." The meeting adopted Mr. Caldecott's proposal; considerable sums were subscribed on the spot and a body, with the title of Council of Education, Witwatersrand, was elected to administer the funds.

### PRELIMINARY WORK.

The Council forthwith proceeded to collect further funds and to secure the services of an official in order to give effect to the aims it had in view. Mr. John Robinson was appointed Secretary and Director and he assumed duty in September, 1895.

Mr. Robinson at once proceeded to traverse the reef from end to end and to visit schools in order not only approximately to ascertain how many children were not attending school, but also to gauge, as nearly as possible, the value and extent of the educational work actually being done.

From Mr. Robinson's report it appeared that *one child out of every three of school-going age was not attending school*, and that the prevailing type of school was the small private adventure school. In Johannesburg itself, including half a dozen mines in the immediate vicinity, there were 55 Uitlander schools. Of these 13 were housed in school buildings, 14 in churches and 28 in rooms of private dwellings. Only 46 out of 187 teachers working in these schools held teachers' certificates. The number of children of school-going age was estimated at 6,000, and it appeared that about 2,000 were not attending school.

A comprehensive scheme, intended principally to meet the needs of 2,000 children on the reef (excluding Johannesburg proper), who were not attending school, was submitted. A plan of the reef, showing the sites of the proposed schools, was prepared. This scheme involved a capital expenditure of £60,000. It was clear that so large a sum was not likely to be forthcoming from individual donors, and efforts were made to interest the Chamber of Mines in the matter. The Chamber met the Council's advances in a friendly spirit, and approved of the scheme. A scale of assessment was drafted, under which the mines were recommended to furnish the Council, not only with the capital sum required, but also with a liberal annual contribution towards maintenance. The Jameson raid took place at this juncture, and the political uncertainty of the subsequent months made it impossible to press the mines to give effect to the Chamber's recommendation



## CONSTITUTION OF COUNCIL.

Meanwhile the Council had taken steps to have its status in the Republic defined. A trust deed was drawn up in terms of which the gentlemen, elected at the public meeting in April of 1895, were to form the first Council. The following names are appended to the original trust deed:—

J. G. Auret.  
A. Bailey.  
B. Bertram.  
H. S. Caldecott.  
S. H. Farrar.  
E. Hancock.  
H. J. Hofmeyr.

C. Jeppe.  
Chas. Leonard.  
H. B. Marshall.  
Lionel Phillips.  
T. Reunert.  
W. H. Rogers.  
J. Tudhope.

The constitution conferred powers to found and maintain schools, to support or subsidise schools not founded by the Council, to support or assist technical or night schools, endow bursaries, and, generally, to further education within the area of its operations. The sphere of work was restricted to the Witwatersrand, but might be extended to any other part of the Republic by resolution of the Council. The deed was registered in Pretoria in March of 1896. As several of the signatories were associated with the Reform Movement, the document had, in these cases, to be taken to the prison in Pretoria for signature.

With a view to expediting its work, the Council, under the provisions of its constitution, appointed an Executive Committee, called the Syndic. Very full administrative powers were delegated to this body. A finance committee was also appointed at this time.

## THE COUNCIL AND PRIMARY EDUCATION.

The unrest of the first months of 1896 was followed, towards the end of the year, by a sense of impending reforms, which rendered impossible the prosecution of the Council's schemes, as laid before the Chamber of Mines. Rumours regarding the appointment of an industrial commission suggested the possibility of general emendatory measures, and it was thought by many that heroic voluntary effort in the cause of education would be equally impolitic and unnecessary. Furthermore, stimulated thereto by the activity of the Council, an amendment to the Education Law, in the interests of non-Dutch speaking children, was promised, and private donors became reluctant to furnish funds to meet needs for which the new Law was expected to provide.

The educational conditions, as revealed by Mr. Robinson's investigations, were, however, too serious to allow the Council to be greatly influenced either by the unrest or by the ensuing optimism, and it was resolved to get to work and make the most of the available funds. About £7,000 had been raised by private subscription, whilst a judicious purchase and sale of land added some £3,000 to this amount. Regulations were drafted, subject to which assistance might be dispensed to deserving schools, and a code of instruction for use in schools was drawn up. Before the end of 1896 the Council had three school properties of its own, and had assumed control of and financial responsibility for three other schools. Every effort was made to make the schools efficient; only trained and experienced teachers were employed. Buildings were improved and extended and equipped with approved furniture.



Good schools, not under the Council's control, were helped by grants varying in amount from £25 to £100. In this way it was hoped to get the maximum of result from a minimum of expenditure.

### SCIENCE CLASSES.

Whilst this work was going on strong representations were made to the Council as to the need for instruction in Chemistry and Assaying for the benefit of young men engaged in the Cyanide works and Assay offices on the Mines. After consideration the Council resolved to establish a series of science classes, and the services of Mr. John Daniell, who was recommended to the Council as peculiarly fitted for the work, were obtained from England to inaugurate the experiment. A laboratory and class-room, in Harrison Street, were hired and thoroughly equipped, and in January of 1897 classes in Physics, Chemistry and Assaying were opened. The work was fairly successful, but the difficulty of timing the classes to meet the case of students working in various shifts, and coming from the mines at considerable distances, with little in the way of transport facilities, brought about irregularity of attendance and a consequent reduction in fees. The strain of devoting considerable subsidies to these classes, in view of the paramount importance of other educational work, was more than the Council could bear, and the classes were closed after running for a year and a half. The Council, however, had the satisfaction of seeing several of its students obtain good positions on the Mines.

### A SECONDARY SCHOOL.

Towards the end of 1896 the opportunity of acquiring suitable premises, at a reasonable cost, enabled the Council to carry out its desire to establish a High School for boys. Certain existing school premises at Fawcettown, in the Jeppestown area, were purchased and enlarged. The building was completely furnished with the most modern furniture and apparatus, and highly-qualified teachers were appointed. The school was opened at the beginning of 1897 with 30 boys, and within a year it was self-supporting, with an attendance of over 100. At a later date the control of this school passed to the parents of the Jeppes-town district; and the school ultimately became the Jeppe High School. At the beginning of 1898 the Council controlled educational work at the following centres:—

Science Classes (Harrison Street).

Booysens.

Brickfields (S. Cyprians).

City and Suburban.

Jeppestown.

Braamfontein.

Boksburg.

Springs.

The attendance at this period was just under 1,000.

### £100,000 FOR EDUCATION ON THE RAND.

Towards the end of 1898 the Council saw itself coming to the end of its funds, and the question as to whether it should carry on its work or wind up had to be seriously considered. The promised amendment to the Government Education Law had been published in August of 1896. This had done little to bring amelioration of the educational conditions. In connection with the new law a representative committee had been appointed for the Witwatersrand, consisting of South African Dutch, Hollanders, Germans, Americans and English.



This Board soon realised that it could do little or no good, and after existing for six months, it resigned in a body. In March, 1898, the Council addressed a letter to the Government, through the Burgomaster and Mining Commissioner, suggesting a way in which it could be of service to the Government. No reply was vouchsafed to this letter.

After careful consideration the Council resolved to carry on, and not only to carry on, but, if possible, to widen the scope of its work. The Secretary was directed to revise his statistics in view of the increase of population and developments on the Mines, and the results of his fresh investigations were embodied in a letter addressed to Mr. (now Sir Percy) Fitzpatrick. Sir Percy made this letter the basis of an appeal to Messrs. Wernher, Beit and Co., and other financial houses in London, interested in the Witwatersrand. The facts revealed by the letter evoked considerable attention in London, and the appeal resulted in subscriptions, amounting to nearly £100,000, being paid into the Council's funds before April of 1899. The Council resolved, if possible, to reserve the whole of this fund for capital expenditure, and the mines were asked for a guarantee of £17,000 annually towards the upkeep of schools. Guarantees amounting to nearly £13,000 annually for a period of three years had been received when war broke out and temporarily put a stop to the Council's activities.

### THE WAR PERIOD.

During the war period several meetings of the Syndic were held at Capetown. The business at these meetings was, for the most part, concerned with the care of the Council's funds. Towards the end of 1900 the Secretary was seconded, in order that he might assist the Director of Education of the Transvaal (Mr. E. B. Sargent), to establish schools in Johannesburg.

### GOVERNMENT ASSUMES RESPONSIBILITY FOR PRIMARY EDUCATION.

The end of the Boer War marked the beginning of a new era in the work of the Council. The first annual meeting of the Council, held in Johannesburg after the outbreak of the war, took place on the 19th of March, 1902. At this meeting a report was submitted, in which the following passage occurs:—"Primary education has already been taken vigorously in hand and it may be taken for granted that the State will discharge to the full its duties in respect of Primary Education."

The report further pointed out that the Council would find ample scope for its activities in connection with the establishing or aiding art and technical schools and promoting the interests of Secondary and Higher Education. The report was adopted and the Council was thus embarked on a new sphere of usefulness.

### TECHNICAL EDUCATION.

Immediately after the war the Council found itself called upon to take an active part in connection with investigations regarding Technical Education in South Africa. The Council's activities in this direction have been clearly traced in a memorandum on Higher Education, submitted in November, 1907, by Mr. Theodore Reunert, the then Chair-



man of Council. The following is an extract from this memorandum :—

### July 15th, 1902.—

On the 15th July, 1902, a letter from the Education Department was read at this Council, requesting its co-operation in the preparation of a scheme for Technical Education. At the same meeting 22 gentlemen were nominated by this Council to form a Committee as representing the following branches of science: Engineering, Mining, Chemistry, Metallurgy, Surveying, Technology, Geology, Architecture, Agriculture and Medicine.

### October 10th, 1902.—

In the month of October following, the aforementioned Committee, consisting of the nominees of this Council, and of two representatives of the Education Department, presented its report, in which it recommended: (1) "Bringing into existence an institution providing the highest kind of training in the arts and sciences connected with mining, agriculture and other industries. (2) That the said institution should be within easy reach of Johannesburg, and (3) that this Technical Institute should form an integral part of a Teaching University."

This Committee further recommended :—

(a) The appointment of a Special Commission to consider the question in connection with the wider one of a South African University; and

(b) That steps should forthwith be taken to meet the needs of this district in respect to technical education.

### December, 1902.—

In the first days of December following, a conference was held in Johannesburg, between the above Committee and representatives of the South African College and the Kimberley School of Mines, at which it was decided to transfer the work of that school to Johannesburg.

### January 2nd, 1903.—

Early in January, 1903, a Commission was appointed "to inquire into the steps to be taken to bring into existence an institution which should form part of a Teaching University and which should provide the highest training in the arts and sciences connected with mining and other industries."

This Commission, comprising nearly all the members of the previous Committee, with representatives of the Chamber of Mines, the Town Council and the Chamber of Commerce, consisted of 33 members, and was presided over by the Director of Education.

### July, 1903.—

In July, 1903, the Report of the Commission recommended, *inter alia* :—

(1) "The immediate provision in temporary premises of facilities for technical and scientific, as well as literary education, of so high a standard as may be found practicable under the control of a committee which shall ultimately develop into the governing body of the Teaching University in this Colony."

(2) "The immediate provision, in Johannesburg, of a permanent institution in the nature of a Polytechnic, to be situated on Plein Square"; and



(3) "The immediate acquisition of a site for a Teaching University for the Colony, within a convenient distance of Johannesburg and Pretoria."

Under this third heading the Commission further reported as follows:—

(a) "The most important branch of the University, at any rate at the outset, will be the School of Mines, and it is therefore evident that the University must be so situated that the students may be within easy reach of the Mines."

(b) "For the same reason this site should be connected with Johannesburg with a good railway or tram service."

(c) "It would be necessary for this site to be a large one, and we believe it would be a wise provision to secure, at once, a whole farm of several thousand acres."

"A further reason for securing so large a site is to enable all the different teaching and scientific departments of the Colony to be congregated at one centre, so that the Teaching Staff of the University, and the laboratories and apparatus of these various institutions should serve for as large and varied a class of students as possible."

(d) "In addition to the Teaching University, the following institutions should be located on this site:—

1. The Agricultural School.
2. The State Laboratories for Chemistry and Pathology.
3. The Normal School for Teachers."

#### August, 1903.—

In the month following the presentation of the Commission's Report, H.E. the Lieut.-Governor, appointed a body, under the corporate title of the "Transvaal Technical Institute," the powers and functions of which were laid down as follows:—

1. "To give effect, as far as the funds placed at its disposal will allow, to the recommendations of the Technical Education Commission, detailed in the report under sub-title 'Preliminary Arrangements,' and

1. "To give effect, as far as the funds placed at its disposal will be available for the carrying out of the Technical Education Commission's recommendations, detailed under sub-titles 'Permanent Institution in Johannesburg' and 'Permanent Colonial Institute,' and to submit practical recommendations to the Lieut.-Governor regarding the same."

The first Council of the Transvaal Technical Institute consisted of 10 members, three of whom were nominated by the Education Commission, three by the Witwatersrand Council of Education, and three by the Government, with the addition of the Director of Education as Chairman.

#### June, 1904.—

Early in 1904 the Council of the Institute was increased to 25 members, of whom seven were nominated by the Witwatersrand Council of Education, which still (1907) has this number of representatives on the College Council.

### SECONDARY EDUCATION.

Towards the end of 1904 the need for better and increased housing accommodation for Secondary Schools in Johannesburg became



insistent. The Council received a letter from the Director of Education asking for a grant to Jeppestown High School and Johannesburg College. The Jeppestown High School was the lineal descendant of the Fawcettown School, established by the Council before the war, and the Johannesburg College had a temporary home at Barnato Park. New premises were required for both Schools. A contribution of £10,000 to each school was asked for. About this time a Government Commission had been appointed to go into the question of the requirements of Johannesburg in respect of Secondary Education. The Council took the view that it ought to assist in the matter of Secondary Education, provided that its contributions were expended in such a way as to promote the best interests of the community. Accordingly, after carefully considering the possible claims on its resources from other directions, it was resolved to allocate the sum of £25,000 to Secondary Education in Johannesburg, subject to conditions to be decided upon after the publication of the Secondary Education Commission's report. A further sum of £27,500 was set aside towards the erection of a Public Boarding School at Frankenwald. Meanwhile the Syndic was instructed to find out whether the Government would give £2,500 more to each school if the Council did the same, whether suitable sites could be obtained without payment, and, finally, what steps were being taken to provide a Secondary School for girls.

On receipt of the report of the Secondary Education Commission, which recommended that three new schools be erected, viz., one for boys and girls at Jeppestown, one for boys on a site in Smit Street, and one for girls in the neighbourhood of the Cleveland High School, the Council at once definitely voted £12,500 to the Jeppestown School, to be erected on a site of seven acres, to be given by the Witwatersrand Township Company. A proposal to give £12,500 towards the erection of a Secondary School in Smit Street was rejected, as the Council considered the site to be altogether unsuitable. Subsequently the proposal to give £25,000 to Secondary Schools in Johannesburg was modified to read £7,500 each to Jeppe High School, Johannesburg College, and a High School for Girls. In the case of the two latter the sites were to be approved by the Council. A series of protracted discussions ensued over the site question. The merits of the Smit Street site were urged by the Government, but the Council refused to have anything to do with it. Then three alternative sites were offered by the Braamfontein Estate Company, in West Cliff, and in the vicinity of the Zoo. One or other of these sites at first appeared to have attractions, but they were ultimately rejected as being remote from the homes of the greater number of boys who would require secondary education. After considering the arguments for and against the various sites suggested, the governing body of the Johannesburg College came to give its exclusive adherence to a site on the Houghton Estate. The only objection to this site appeared to be that it would be likely to interfere with St. John's College, which was already established. It was urged, however, that there was room for both schools, especially as the type of boy for which each catered was not identical, and the Houghton Estate site was, in the end, agreed upon. The question of a site for the Girls' School was finally settled by Mr. Joel giving Barnato Park for the purpose.

Throughout the controversy on the sites question the Council resolutely adhered to the principle that sites should be obtained free. It was finally found necessary to depart, in some measure, from this



principle, but the attitude of the Council was instrumental in effecting a considerable reduction in the purchase prices originally proposed

### THE SCHOOL OF MINES.

It has already been shown, under "Technical Education," page 8, how the Transvaal Technical Institute came into existence as the result of the efforts of a committee on technical education, nominated by the Council and a Technical Education Commission, on which the Council was largely represented. The Technical Institute established classes, making full provision for the work hitherto done by the Kimberley School of Mines. Classes in various other branches of engineering were added, and provision was made for the 'first two years' course of scientific training, which the Kimberley students had received at the South African College. Technical classes were also arranged for at various centres on the Reef.

The Technical Institute opened its doors in the premises of an old tobacco factory in Kerk Street in the beginning of 1904. Meanwhile steps were taken to erect temporary buildings for the use of the Institute in Plein Square. The Technical Education Commission had recommended that Plein Square should be set aside to provide space for a teaching institution and to house the public library and the Scientific Societies of Johannesburg.

Owing to its intimate association with the various commissions whose labours resulted in the founding of the Technical Institute—which Institution was everywhere approved as meeting an urgent need in connection with the staple industry of the Rand—the Council felt itself bound in close ties of sympathy, with the Institute. This feeling the Council gave expression to, in the first instance, by contributing £4,500 annually for the first three years, towards carrying on the Institute's work. In 1905, when the question of permanent buildings in Plein Square came to be discussed, the Council expressed its readiness to contribute £60,000, in addition to the £30,000 to be given by Government, for the purpose of building. In 1906 the Technical Institute added to its Mining and Engineering courses classes in Arts, Literature and Law, and the Institute came to be known as the "Transvaal University College." Later, after the removal of the Arts and Literature courses to Pretoria, the title "South African School of Mines and Technology" was adopted. The Council has the right to nominate three members of the Council of the School of Mines, and has continued to maintain a warm interest in the Institution to the foundation of which it contributed so largely. This interest has found practical expression in substantial contributions towards equipment and other needs, when occasion has arisen.

### THE BEIT BEQUEST.

Mr. Alfred Beit died in July, 1906, and he left a legacy of £200,000 to the Transvaal Government towards the founding of a University on the Frankenwald Estate. Mr. Beit's will provided that the legacy was to be used for the purposes mentioned within a period of ten years, dating from his death. Meanwhile, interest on the amount was to be paid to the "Board of Education, Johannesburg." Later, by arrangement with the Beit Trustees, a friendly action was brought in the High Court, and in terms of the award, the "Board of Education, Johannesburg," was declared to mean "Council of Education, Witwatersrand."



## HIGHER EDUCATION.

The history of the Council's relations with the Technical side of Higher Education has already been dealt with under "Technical Education," page 8. Its active intervention in connection with the question, regarded in the broader sense, may be said to date from the beginning of 1906, when the Technical Institute, with the Council's approval, established classes in Arts, Literature and Law. It was believed that these classes would meet a felt want. Unfortunately the Government did not approve of the action of the Technical Institute in establishing these classes, and whilst, during 1906 and 1907, it continued to contribute funds for the maintenance of the Institute's work, it also, during those years, contributed to the maintenance of teachers, both at Johannesburg College and the Jeppestown High School, for the purpose of preparing students for the Intermediate examination of the Cape University. As a result of this action on the part of the Government, the number of Arts students was kept down, and when, in 1907, a committee was appointed to consider the question of Higher Education in the Transvaal, it was found difficult to establish a case for the retention of the Arts students at the University College.

The Higher Education Committee referred to above recommended, *inter alia* :—

1. That the higher education of the Colony be organised under three branches, divisions or departments of a single institution called the Transvaal University College.

2. That the location of these three departments and the general character of the work done be as follows :—

(a) Agricultural Courses at Frankenwald.

(b) Literary and Science Courses at Pretoria.

(c) Technical Courses at Johannesburg.

The report of the Committee was submitted to the Council of the University College, who in turn sent it to the Council of Education for its opinion.

Three special meetings were held to consider the question. The Council cherished the view, also held by the Council of the University College, that in the Technical and Arts Courses of the College they had the beginnings of a complete teaching University, as recommended by the Technical Education Commission, which would find its home at Frankenwald. Moreover, it was felt that, both on the grounds of efficiency and political expediency, one teaching institution for the Transvaal had far more to recommend it than the tripartite scheme proposed.

On November 26th, 1907, the Colonial Secretary, General Smuts, came to Johannesburg to discuss the matter with the Council of the University College and the Council of Education, Witwatersrand. In support of the tripartite scheme the Colonial Secretary urged, *inter alia* :

1. That Johannesburg was already erecting expensive college buildings where the technical work of a university character would be carried on.

2. Pretoria had been given a grant of land on which to erect University College buildings.

3. Agriculture, being a subject of a very technical character, the school, in this branch, must first be controlled by the Government, and when launched, could be handed over to the University College.



In reply it was pointed out:—

1. That the building in Plein Square was only regarded as the temporary home of the full mining school.
2. That when it became possible to remove the classes of the preliminary mining course to some centre between Johannesburg and Pretoria, the Plein Square building would become the home of day and evening classes, technical and other, of a less advanced character.
3. That the opportunity for social intercourse afforded by a great teaching University, which was of such moment to the Transvaal as a cure for social ills, would be entirely lost if the tripartite scheme were adopted.

Meanwhile it had been elicited, at a meeting of Council, held on November 11th, at which the Director of Education was present, that provision had been made for carrying on the work at Pretoria, in terms of the tripartite scheme, and the decision having in effect been taken, despite the Council's objections, there only remained to be decided the question as to whether there was to be one controlling body for the Johannesburg and Pretoria institutions, or whether each was to have separate governing bodies. At its meeting, held on the 31st January, 1908, to consider a further communication from the Colonial Secretary on the question, the Council gave its reluctant consent to the tripartite scheme.

With regard to the Colonial Secretary's final letter, it is worthy of note:—

1. Whilst the Colonial Secretary regarded the Agricultural College as of paramount importance and was of opinion that an institution of that kind was the most suitable beginning that could be made with the Beit Donation, and whilst there was a common understanding that this portion of the scheme was less pressing and could, therefore, remain in abeyance, it was not agreed that it should be abandoned.
2. It was clearly understood that the larger question of a University for the Transvaal should not be disposed of by the proposed re-organisation, but should only remain in abeyance.

At the meeting on January 31st, 1908, Messrs. W. F. Lance, J. Gau, W. T. H. Frost and Dr. Hamilton were nominated to the four seats retained by the Council on the joint governing body of the two institutions. The two institutions separated in 1909, and the Council retains the right to nominate three members on the governing body of the local institution.

As a result of the removal of the Arts and Literature Courses to Pretoria, the Council was approached, in 1909, by a number of students, desirous of preparing for the Intermediate Examination of the Cape of Good Hope University, with a request to have classes established for them. The Council consented, and, in addition to the Intermediate classes, B.A. classes were opened during the following year. Both series of classes were discontinued in 1913, although 15 students presented themselves, as it was felt that considerable expense was being incurred in doing work that properly pertained to the Government.

In 1911 a Commission on Higher Education came to Johannesburg and a representative of the Council gave evidence. The questions addressed to the Council's representative appeared to be framed mainly with a view to ascertain the extent of the Council's resources and how access to them could be obtained.

In 1914 the University Commission sat at Johannesburg, under the presidency of Sir Percival Laurence, K.C.M.G.

The following precis of a memorandum laid before the Commission, sums up the Council's attitude regarding the University question at that time :—

1. A University in or near Johannesburg has always been an ideal of the Council, and the appreciation by Mr. Beit of the Council's views on this point influenced him in bequeathing the sum of £200,000 to establish a University at Frankenswald.
2. The recognition by the Beit Trustees that the title " Board of Education," appearing in Mr. Beit's will, meant " Council of Education," must be regarded as a recognition of the claim of the Witwatersrand to benefit by Mr. Beit's generosity.
3. The Council, attracted by the idea of one National University at Groote Schuur, agreed to support the proposal of Mr. Otto Beit to add the £200,000 left for a Johannesburg University, to the Wernher bequest of £300,000, in order to found a National Institution.
4. The Council protests emphatically against the diversion of a bequest primarily intended for Johannesburg, in the event of the scheme for one National University being abandoned.
5. The Council further records its opposition to any Federal University scheme, and declares that in case of the one National University scheme being abandoned, it will return to its original scheme of a Johannesburg University.

The Commission recommended that two Universities should be constituted, one with the South African College, Capetown, and the Victoria College, Stellenbosch, as its constituent colleges, and the second at Pretoria. The Johannesburg School of Mines and Technology was to be recognised as a faculty of both Universities.

The Government did not adopt the recommendations of the University Commission. It should be noted that a Bill, providing for one National University at Groote Schuur had been prepared some years previously, and laid before the Union Parliament, but was referred to a Select Committee after passing the second reading, and finally withdrawn.

The next development was the announcement, towards the end of 1915, of the Government's intention to bring in three Bills providing for three separate Universities; one at Groote Schuur, a second at Stellenbosch, and a third, with the colleges of the Union other than the South African College and Stellenbosch, as constituent colleges, without any defined home. The Council's opposition to this legislation developed into a movement, embracing the whole of the Witwatersrand. The clergy, doctors, teachers, school boards and municipalities united in their denunciation of a policy that would deprive the most densely populated district of the Union of facilities for University education. The history of this agitation makes a story of itself, and is told in an appendix hereto.



## UNIVERSITY EXTENSION LECTURES.

In 1903 the Council resolved to set aside the sum of £500 for that year as a fund to provide lectures of a University Extension character. It was proposed to arrange courses of lectures by college professors and local men of scientific or literary standing, and, if possible, in addition, arrange for lecturers from overseas. The Council continued to give financial support to this work, and the movement developed rapidly in the course of time. In connection with the movement, lectures by overseas lecturers were arranged, not only in Johannesburg, but also in the principal South African towns. The public of South Africa were thus afforded an opportunity of listening to men of world-wide repute, such as: Sir Henry Miers, now Vice-Chancellor of Manchester University; Sir Walter Raleigh, Professor of English Literature, Oxford; Mr. H. A. L. Fisher, Vice-Chancellor of Sheffield University; Mr. Henry Balfour, Director, Pitt-Rivers (Anthropological) Museum, Oxford and Mr. J. A. Thomson, Regius Professor of Natural History, Aberdeen University. It is of interest to note that Professor Thomson's South African lectures formed the basis of his book on "Darwinism and Human Life."

Various courses of lectures by local men were also arranged.

## OVERSEAS SCHOLARSHIPS.

In view of repeated applications from young men and young women for assistance to enable them to carry on their studies, the Council, in 1913, appointed a committee to work out the details of a scholarship scheme. The Committee found that there was already considerable provision made for scholarships by the Transvaal Government, while certain of the Cape of Good Hope University scholarships were available for Transvaal students, but that there appeared to be a great many promising students, who were out of the ordinary avenues leading to scholarships, whom it would be desirable to assist. The subjects in connection with which applications for scholarships might be made, which included literature, science, education, economics, art and music, were indicated. Mining and law were excluded on the ground that there was already some provision made for scholarships in these subjects in South Africa. The Committee recommended that no award be made unless the student gave evidence of real promise in his or her subject. The successful students were to carry on their studies in Europe and were expected to return and teach or practice in South Africa. Scholarships were to vary in amount from £150 per annum to £250. The Council adopted the report of the Committee, and resolved to devote £750 annually to overseas scholarships. The first batch of students proceeded to Europe in October, 1913. The outbreak of the war in the autumn of 1914 has made it impossible for the Council to see the full fruition of its first efforts, but excellent reports of its students have been received. Meanwhile the Council has published a report by Miss Wynsouw, who obtained a scholarship, tenable for one year, which enabled her to go to Europe and study the Montessori system of infant education.

## THE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

During 1903, on the motion of Mr. Theo. Reunert, the then Chairman of the Public Library, the Council resolved to lend the sum of £25,000 to the Public Library at a low rate of interest, provided that

at least £10,000 should be spent in buildings. By means of this loan the Library Committee was enabled to cancel a bond which was bearing a high rate of interest, and to complete the fine existing block of buildings in Kerk Street. The loan was subsequently increased to £27,000. Later, in 1910, the Council contributed, jointly with the Transvaal Government, in relieving the Library of its liabilities, and the bond for £27,000 was cancelled. Thus, as a result of the support accorded by the Council, during several years, the public utility of the Library was materially enhanced, and, as the outcome of its action in 1910, it had the satisfaction of seeing the Institution practically free of debt. At a later date £500 was contributed from the Council's funds to enable the Library to acquire the Harold Strange collection of South African Books.

### FURTHER EDUCATION OF BOYS AND GIRLS.

At the annual meeting of the Council, held in December, 1912, Mr. W. Cullen called attention to the need for vocational education for apprentices and youths at work, and, generally, to the whole question of the further education of boys and girls who have had to leave school prematurely in order to go to work. A committee was appointed to go into the matter. This committee instituted elaborate inquiries among the schools, the mines and other employers of youthful labour, and the results of these inquiries were published in a report which was issued in the beginning of 1914. From this report it appeared that out of about 1,000 boys leaving school annually on the Witwatersrand, nearly one-half embarked in occupations that held out no hope for the future. The Committee recommended that practical subjects should be introduced into the school code, with a view to rendering school work more attractive to the boys and girls of varying capacities and temperament. It also urged that inasmuch as a boy cannot be said to have attained a responsible age till he is 18, a complete system of continuation classes should be established which boys should be compelled to attend till they have reached that age. Owing to the outbreak of the war action in connection with the further education of boys and girls has remained in suspense, but the question is very urgent and should be dealt with without unnecessary delay.

Meanwhile, it is interesting to note that at the same time that the Council's Committee was carrying on its inquiries, the Government Council of Education was considering the same matter. The Government Council drafted recommendations, much on the lines laid down in this Council's report, which were submitted to the Provincial Council. It seems not improbable that, but for the war, legislative action would have been taken ere this.

### DONATIONS TO STUDENTS.

Apart from its efforts in connection with the Overseas Scholarship scheme, the Council has frequently had occasion to give financial aid to students at South African educational institutions. All such cases were investigated and assistance was only rendered when it could be shown that the student showed special promise, and that his relatives were unable to afford the means of keeping him at school.

In connection with the South African School of Mines and Technology, a scheme has been developed by means of which students, who, on approaching the end of their course, experience financial difficulties, are given a loan to the amount of their fees, they undertaking, personally, to refund the sum advanced them when they come to be in a position to earn their own living.



## SCHOOL LOANS.

During the period from 1902 onwards the Council has been able to materially forward the interests of education in the district by giving loans, at a low rate of interest, to approved schools, in connection with the erection of new buildings, or for the purpose of extension. Several schools that have been helped in this way have shown remarkable development, not only with regard to numbers, but also in respect of efficiency in working. The case of the Convent School, Parktown, may be cited. This school was enabled, by a loan of £15,000, to complete its fine block of buildings. The school is now full to overflowing, and has an excellent record. Meanwhile the Sisters have reduced the original loan to £2,500.

£3,500 was advanced to enable Mr. Shrive to complete a building scheme in connection with the Parktown Preparatory School for Boys. Mr. Shrive's school is now full, and the loan, which is a recent one, is being reduced. St. John's College is paying off a loan of £4,800 at the rate of £400 annually. Several other schools have been assisted in a similar manner, and although the resulting benefit has not always been so marked as in the cases quoted, in no single instance has failure to be recorded.

## GIFTS TO SCHOOLS.

The Council has, from time to time, given substantial sums to schools to aid in acquiring land, buildings or equipment. Needless to say awards of this nature were only made after inquiry, and in all cases the Council satisfied itself that the gift would result in increased educational activity and efficiency, which would react in the public interest. St. John's College received donations amounting to £5,700. A portion of this amount was used for the purchase of land on which the Council imposed a servitude, requiring that it can only be used for bona fide educational purposes in connection with the College. £2,000 was given to the Marist Brothers to enable them to complete buildings for a boarding establishment. £1,000 was given to the Roedean School, to enable it to add some new buildings. Grants, amounting to nearly £2,000, have from time to time been given to schools for the purposes of furniture and equipment.

## MINOR ACTIVITIES.

Under this head are tabulated a few of the more important transactions of a lesser nature, that have occupied the attention of the Council from time to time. These though, perhaps, of no great moment when regarded separately, have undoubtedly done much to stimulate educational activity in the wider sense. Thus, grants made to the Seymour Memorial Library, the Johannesburg School of Art, and the Government Observatory, have materially assisted these institutions at critical periods. For several years a sum of £80 has been distributed annually among several approved schools which have no Government support, as a contribution to their prize fund. Various grants have been made to schools and boys' clubs to enable them to obtain certain specified equipment. With a view to promote a taste for English

literature, prizes have been given, for several years, in connection with Shakespeare Recitation competitions. Grants have been made in aid of scientific research. Patriotic bodies, such as the Victoria League and the League of Empire, have been assisted, and the Council has contributed to or defrayed the cost of the publication of books or publications which have been regarded as of educational value locally.

### PERSONNEL OF COUNCIL.

A list of names of past and present members of Council is sub-joined.

Ch. denotes Chairman.  
 D. Ch. „ Deputy Chairman.  
 S. „ Member of Syndic.  
 F. „ Member of Finance Committee.  
 T. „ Trustee.  
 Gr. „ Member of Governing Body of outside Institutions.

Names of present Members of Council are in heavy type.

Name of Councillor.	Year of Election.	Position held on Council.	Left.	Remarks.
H. S. Caldecott ..	1895	Ch. S. T. F. Gr.	1907	Died, 1907.
<b>Theodore Reunert</b> ..	..	Ch. S. T. F. Gr.		
<b>Sir Lionel Phillips</b> ..	..	S.		Retired, 1896. Re-elected, 1909.
Hon. John Tudhope ..	..		1895	Retired (since dead).
Charles Leonard ..	..		1895	Retired (since dead).
Edward Hancock ..	..		1896	Retired (since dead).
Carl Jeppe ..	..		1896	Retired.
Sir Abe Bailey ..	..		1895	Retired.
H. B. Marshall ..	..		1895	Retired.
<b>H. J. Hofmeyr</b> ..	..			Retired, 1898. Re-elected, 1911
S. H. Farrar ..	..		1895	Retired.
Ben Bertram ..	..		1897	Retired.
W. H. Rogers ..	..		1899	Retired (since dead).
J. G. Auret ..	..		1895	Retired (since dead).
W. P. Fraser ..	..	S. F. Gr.	1909	First Joint Hon. Sec. Resigned.
<b>A. R. Goldring</b> ..	..	S. F. (Ch.)		First Joint Hon. Sec. Now in London.
J. L. van der Merwe ..	..		1895	Retired.
Dr. A. P. Hillier ..	..		1895	Retired.



Name of Councillor.	Year of Election.	Positions held on Council.	Left.	Remarks.
W. T. H. Frost ..	1896	D. Ch. S. F. T. Gr.	1914	Resigned.
(Senator) W. F. Lance..	„	D. Ch. S. F. Gr.		
Julius Gau .. ..	„	S. T. F. (D. Ch.) Gr.		Now in London.
H. C. Perkins ..	„		1896	Retired.
Harold F. Strange ..	„	D. Ch. S. Gr.	1911	Died, 1911.
D. Strachan .. ..	„		1897	Retired.
Sir J. Percy Fitzpatrick	1897	Ch. S.		
Edgar Waugh .. ..	„	S. F. Gr.		
J. Dale Lace .. ..	1899	S.		Retired, 1899.
B. Kitzinger .. ..	„	S.	1903	Re-elected, 1909. Resigned.
Col. W. Dalrymple ..	„	D. Ch. S. F. Gr.		
K. F. Wolff .. ..	„	S.	1903	Retired.
A. Brakhan .. ..	„	S.	1906	Resigned.
J. G. Hamilton .. ..	„	S.	1912	Died, 1912.
F. D. P. Chaplin ..	1902	D. Ch. S. F. (Ch.)	1914	Resigned.
Samuel Evans .. ..	„	S. T. F. Gr.		
J. Emrys Evans .. ..	„	D. Ch. S. F. (Ch.) T. Gr.		
C. F. Tainton .. ..	1903			
L. Sutro .. ..	„		1905	Resigned.
W. H. Dawe .. ..	„	S. F. Gr.		
John Robinson .. ..	„	S. Gr		First Secretary of Council.
Fabian Ware .. ..	„		1904	Retired.
W. Smale Adams .. ..	„	Gr.		
H. C. Behr .. ..	„		1912	Retired.
W. St. John Carr .. ..	„		1908	Resigned.
Dr. W. A. Caldecott ..	„	S. Gr.		
Dr. G. S. Corstorphine..	„	S. F. Gr.		
F. Drake .. ..	„		1906	Resigned.
Max Francke .. ..	„	S.	1910	Resigned.
Dr. F. H. Hatch .. ..	„		1908	Retired.

Name of Councillor.	Year of Elec- tion.	Positions held on Council.	Left.	Remarks.
Sidney Jennings .. ..	..	..	1907	Resigned.
E. B. J. Knox .. ..	..	..	1904	Retired.
<b>E. J. Laschinger</b> .. ..	..	Gr.		
W. E. Park .. ..	..	..	1910	Retired.
<b>Dr. Charles Porter</b> .. ..	..	Gr.		
Dr. W. C. C. Pakes .. ..	..	Gr.	1910	Retired.
A. N. Robeson .. ..	..	..	1911	Resigned.
<b>Senator W. K. Tucker</b> .. ..	..	S.		
Dr. G. Turner .. ..	..	..	1904	Retired.
J. R. Williams .. ..	..	Gr.	1909	Retired.
E. H. V. Melvill .. ..	..	..	1906	Resigned.
<b>R. W. Schumacher</b> .. ..	1904	S. F. Gr.		Now in London.
G. H. Goch .. ..	..	..	1909	Resigned.
Sir George Farrar .. ..	1905	..	1915	Killed in G.S.W.A.
Dr. E. T. E. Hamilton .. ..	1906	Gr.	1914	Retired.
<b>W. Cullen</b> .. ..	1908	S. Gr.		Now in London.
<b>L. Reyersbach</b> .. ..	1909	..		Now in London.
<b>P. C. Baerveldt</b> .. ..	..	..		
<b>Patrick Duncan</b> .. ..	..	..		
G. W. Higgins .. ..	..	..	1913	Resigned.
W. L. Honnold .. ..	..	..	1915	Resigned.
<b>H. C. Boyd</b> .. ..	..	..		
Sir Thomas Price .. ..	1910	Gr.	1913	Resigned.
<b>Prof. J. G. Lawn</b> .. ..	1911	..		Now in London.
<b>Gustav Imroth</b> .. ..	1912	S.		
<b>Dr. J. McCrae</b> .. ..	..	..		
<b>Mrs. Phyllis Lys</b> .. ..	..	Gr.		
<b>J. R. Cowell</b> .. ..	..	Gr.		
C. E. G. Farquharson .. ..	..	Gr.	1913	Resigned.
<b>Dr. P. C. Anders</b> .. ..	1913	Gr.		



Name of Councillor.	Year of Election.	Position held on Council.	Left.	Remarks.
Dr. R. A. Lehfeldt ..	..			
H. Eckstein .. ..	..	S. F.		
D. Christopherson ..	1915	S.		
Alex. Aiken .. .	..	S.		
The Mayor of Johannesburg		ex officio.		

### APPENDIX.

#### THE GOVERNMENT'S UNIVERSITY POLICY AND ITS RELATION TO THE WITWATERSRAND.

Early in November, 1915, Members of the Council of Education learned that the Government proposed introducing a Bill into Parliament to provide for the incorporation of the South African College as the University of Capetown, transferring it to a site at Groot Schuur, and giving it the sum bequeathed by Sir Julius Wernher, as well as that given by Mr. Otto Beit for a National University of South Africa.

Later on the Government announced its intention of introducing a Bill for the establishment of a University at Stellenbösch, and a third Bill for the formation of a Federal University, the components of which would be the remaining Colleges at Wellington, Grahamstown, Bloemfontein, Pretoria and Maritzburg, and, if the authorities agreed, the South African School of Mines and Technology. A conference of representatives of these colleges was held in Capetown in December. The Council of the School of Mines was represented by Mr. H. J. Hofmeyr and the Senate by Dr. G. S. Corstorphine (both of whom are members of the Council of Education). At the Conference the Minister of Education explained that the representatives were not to deal with questions of policy. The Government had decided on the foundation of three universities, and the conference must accept that decision as final: its province was simply to discuss the best means of making the proposed Federal University an efficient institution. One day of the conference was given to a discussion of questions, such as the Matriculation examination and the award of Scholarships, of common interest to the three proposed Universities.

To Members of the Council of Education these proposals came as a proverbial "bolt from the blue." The last public step in connection with the University problem in South Africa, had been the issue of the report by the Laurence Commission early in August, just after the outbreak of war. No announcement had been made by the Government as to its intention regarding the recommendations of that Commission. During the general election in October, 1915, no member of the Government had made any statement that University Legislation would be considered when Parliament had assembled. Moreover, it was the general opinion of those in Johannesburg directly interested in

University development, that the condition of the country due to the war made it unlikely that the University problem would be brought up for consideration till peace was secured. The same view was also held by Mr. William Cullen, now in London, who has always taken a very keen interest in the promotion of higher education in the Transvaal.

During their visit to Capetown, the representatives of the School of Mines learned with intense surprise that negotiations had been carried on between members of the South African College, the Minister of Education, and the trustees of the Wernher-Beit funds, as far back as June and August, 1915.

The draft Bills were issued in February. As soon as they became public the members of the Council of Education realised that their becoming law meant the abstraction of the whole of Mr. Alfred Beit's bequest of £200,000 from the inhabitants of the Witwatersrand, without any advantage to this community or compensation whatsoever. The foundation of three universities would be an entire reversal of the policy that had in the past commended itself to the Council, and it seemed impossible that, in view of the Council's announcement in May, 1914, of its views regarding University education for Johannesburg, the Wernher-Beit trustees, if they had given their consent, could have known what the South African College proposals implied as far as Johannesburg was concerned. The matter could not be allowed to go by default. The Council therefore published a pamphlet entitled "The Witwatersrand and the University Problem," in which it gave a brief summary of its past activities in regard to University Education and the bearing the Government's proposed legislation would have on the prospects and development of such education on the Witwatersrand.

Members of the Council also placed the position before the Mayor of Johannesburg (Mr. Councillor O'Hara) as representing the citizens of Johannesburg, and he realised that a grievous wrong was being done to the community. He cabled to Sir Lionel Phillips, then about to sail for South Africa from London, who replied that when he arrived in Capetown he would be glad to co-operate to further the interests of the Rand. He also sent a cable to Mr. Otto Beit in London, who replied saying they would be guided by Sir Lionel Phillips' advice.

In addition, the Mayor summoned a meeting of the Mayors of the other Municipalities on the Witwatersrand, and with the aid of a Committee, these gentlemen drew up and issued a Minute protesting against the injustice that was being done to the Witwatersrand, and the unfairness of giving to a local institution in Capetown, money which had been specifically left for the "University of Johannesburg." As the Council of Education had pointed out in a memorandum sent to the Laurence Commission in May, 1914, giving Johannesburg's money to a local institution was totally different from taking it for the purpose of founding one National University in which Johannesburg would have as much interest as any other town in the Union. The Mayors also felt strongly that the moment chosen by the Government to bring forward such contentious measures was singularly ill-timed, seeing that all the country's energies should be devoted to the successful prosecution of the War.

The matter was discussed at a special meeting of the Johannesburg Town Council, which, by the courtesy of its members, was addressed by Messrs. Reunert and Hofmeyr, as representing the Council of Education, Witwatersrand, and the South African School of Mines and



Technology, respectively, and the following Resolutions were unanimously adopted, namely:—

“ This Council begs respectfully but urgently to represent to the Government:—

“ (1) That this Council is strongly of opinion that measures of such a contentious character as the three University Bills published in a *Government Gazette Extraordinary* on February 2 should not be submitted to Parliament at a time when all the attention and energies of the country should be devoted to the successful prosecution of the War.

“ (2) That this Council deeply regrets the abandonment of the principle of one National University for the Union of South Africa.

“ (3) That the provisions of the said Bills involve a grave injustice to the rising generation on the Witwatersrand because:

(a) they will inevitably tend to cause the indefinite restriction to technology of the higher education facilities in this area with a European population of a quarter of a million; and

(b) they divert to a local institution in the Cape Peninsula munificent donations to which the Witwatersrand has the first claim.

“ (4) That this Council desires emphatically to protest against the inclusion of the Witwatersrand in any Federal University scheme, the glaring defects of which were so clearly demonstrated by the Minister of Education in the House of Assembly on April 7th, 1913.

“ (5) That, failing the establishment of one National University, no solution of this problem will be satisfactory which does not provide a university for the Witwatersrand, from which the Government derives 60 per cent. of its revenue.

“ (6) That copies of the foregoing Resolutions be transmitted to the Right Hon. the Prime Minister and to the Hon. the Minister of Education.”

Messrs. Reunert and Hofmeyr were also invited to address a Special Meeting of the Germiston Town Council, where the same Resolutions were unanimously adopted. All the other Municipalities of the Witwatersrand expressed their strong feeling that the proposed legislation should be deferred, most of them passing resolutions in identical terms to those set out above. The action of the Municipalities was supported by a large number of separate meetings of educational, scientific and other institutions in Johannesburg. These smaller meetings of representative bodies culminated in a Public Meeting of Citizens, summoned by the Mayor in the Town Hall, Johannesburg, which was attended by nearly 2,500 people. At this meeting the following Resolutions were unanimously passed, namely:—

RESOLUTION No. 1.

“ This meeting, representing a population of 135,000 white citizens of Johannesburg, strongly protests against the action of the Government as embodied in the University Bills now before Parliament, because

(1) This community was not consulted on a matter of such supreme and far-reaching importance.

- (2) No adequate provision is made for the higher education of the rising generation on the Witwatersrand."

Moved by Mr. T. Reunert.

Seconded by Mr. H. J. Hofmeyr.

#### RESOLUTION No. 2.

This meeting demands:—

- (1) "A fully-equipped University College financed by the State.
- (2) The distinct assurance of the right to establish at Johannesburg a State-supported Teaching University as soon as the University College shall have attained the same status as that of either of the two Colleges for which it is now proposed to obtain Charters."

Moved by Mr. Howard Pim.

Seconded by Councillor J. W. Treu, J.P.

#### RESOLUTION No. 3.

- "This meeting appoints a Committee, consisting of the speakers at the meeting, with power to add to their number, who shall be charged with the duty of securing the demand contained in Resolution 2 and such endowment and guarantees as may be referred to."

Moved by Rev. J. G. Aldridge.

Seconded by Councillor J. J. Mulvey.

#### RESOLUTION No. 4.

- "This meeting resolves that copies of the foregoing Resolutions be forwarded to the Right Honourable the Prime Minister, the Honourable the Minister of Education, and the Parliamentary representatives of the Witwatersrand."

Moved by Rev. S. Featherstone Hawkes.

Seconded by Dr. Manfred Nathan.

Prior to the Citizens' Meeting Sir Lionel Phillips arrived in Johannesburg. The Mayor invited the Mayors of the Witwatersrand Municipalities, and a number of representative men to meet Sir Lionel. The meeting was held in the Mayor's Parlour on March 9th, and various speakers laid the case for Johannesburg before Sir Lionel, who expressed his sympathy, but feared that nothing could be done as far as the Beit bequest was concerned, in view of the action that had already been agreed upon in London. He recommended that Johannesburg should, with the aid of local financial support, commence University work in a modest way, and in course of time prove to South Africa that it was entitled to a share of Government support. He promised to render every possible assistance.

Whilst the earlier part of this campaign was being carried on, and when the Bills were about to be placed before Parliament, the Mayor and other members of the Johannesburg Town Council along with members of the Council of Education, met the Parliamentary representatives of the Witwatersrand—Unionist, South African Party and Labour Party—and urged them to take steps to secure justice for Johannesburg. The Witwatersrand Members of Parliament agreed that under the proposed new legislation the Government must admit Johannesburg's right to develop a University of its own, and that consequently the limitations of the work of the School of Mines must be removed. There was, however, among the members a difference of opinion as regards the bequests, a number holding that to give the whole of the



money to the South African College was perhaps the best course to adopt under the circumstances, and that, in any case, the disposal of the funds was a question entirely for the Trustees.

The Minister was interviewed by the representatives of the two Councils, and by the Parliamentary representatives, and asked if he would agree to the removal of the limitation of Johannesburg's higher education to Technology. The question of the diversion of the Beit bequest was also placed before him. His reply to the first was that the arrangement had been made by the old Transvaal Government and he must therefore consult the Cabinet before he could give any reply. In regard to the Beit bequest he stated that its diversion had been agreed to also by the Transvaal Government before Union, and that its disposal had been arranged for before he became Minister of Education.

Later on the Minister announced in Parliament that Johannesburg would have the right to broaden its University work provided the necessary money was obtained from non-Government sources.

The Witwatersrand University Committee formed in accordance with the Resolutions passed at the Citizens' Meeting, consisted of the following, namely:—

His Worship the Mayor.  
Mr. T. Reunert.  
Mr. H. J. Hofmeyr.  
Mr. Howard Pim.  
Councillor J. W. Treu, J.P.  
Rev. J. G. Aldridge.  
Councillor J. J. Mulvey.  
Rev. S. Featherstone Hawkes.  
Dr. Manfred Nathan.  
Councillor H. Wallace Soutter.

These members met on March 20th, and added to their number:—

The Mayor of Krugersdorp.  
The Mayor of Roodepoort-Maraiburg.  
The Mayor of Germiston.  
The Mayor of Boksburg.  
The Mayor of Benoni.  
The Mayor of Springs.  
The Mayor of Vereeniging.  
Senator J. J. Ware.  
Col. W. Dalrymple.  
Dr. Geo. S. Corstorphine.

Several meetings of this Committee have now been held; and it has been arranged to appoint a Sub-Committee, composed of representatives of educational and scientific bodies, to prepare a plan for the establishment of Arts Courses and a School of Medicine on the Witwatersrand, and to draw up an estimate as to the accommodation required, and the amount of the annual grant which would be necessary, in order to make recommendations to this Committee. This Sub-Committee is now being formed, and will commence its investigations very shortly.

At a meeting, representative of the Medical Profession of the Transvaal, held on April 7th, at the South African Institute for Medical Research, the following Resolution was unanimously adopted:—

“ That in the opinion of this Meeting of the Medical Profession of this Province, the time has now arrived when, in the interests of the community, a School of Medicine should be established in the Transvaal with facilities for the granting of diplomas.”

On May 1st, the Prime Minister announced in Parliament that the Royal Assent had been given to the three University Acts. It is a matter of deep regret to us that under these Acts the inhabitants of the Witwatersrand are not to benefit in any way from the munificent bequests of the late Mr. Alfred Beit and the late Sir Julius Wernher. We hope, however, that the recent agitation has brought home to the citizens of the Witwatersrand the deplorable fact that ours is the only European community of its size in the British Overseas Dominions that is without the means of giving University education to the younger generation.









